

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING THE LATE  
HONORABLE STEVE LATOURETTE

SPEECH OF

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 14, 2016*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to-night to honor a statesman and friend, Congressman Steve LaTourette.

For 18 years, Steve served the constituents of Ohio's 14th and 19th Congressional District with distinction. He was tenacious, shrewd, thoughtful, but more importantly, he was always eager to listen and find common ground.

Steve was an expert in parliamentary procedure. His interest in the occurrences on the floor went well beyond his own priorities or personal interests. I had the honor of working with him to protect and preserve one of the most beautiful natural resources we have here in America, the Great Lakes. He understood that along with protecting the environment of these majestic waters, millions of Americans depend on these lakes for their livelihood. Over those 18 years, Steve became more than a colleague, he became a friend. I fondly remember sneaking up to the chair and passing the gossip of the day with him. I don't think you could find a single member when he retired that wasn't sad to see him go.

There was one thing that he loved more than Congress, his family; he was a devoted husband and father. As we look to the end of this Congress and the start of a new, let us remember Steve as a man who always sought common ground and practical solutions, all with a smile and laugh.

CAESAR SYRIA CIVILIAN  
PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADAM KINZINGER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2016*

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5732, the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2016.

In September, a trending comment on Twitter read: This is not Pompeii, this is Aleppo. Think about that for a minute. The death and destruction in Aleppo has reached such epic proportions that we are comparing it to one of the most deadly natural disasters in world history.

The President and his administration have continued to highlight the horrors of Syria exhibited by Assad and Putin by using terms like "barbarism", "beyond the pale", and "haunting". I think the more apt term for this is "a problem from hell."

Yet, even as the President, Secretary of State, and Ambassador to the UN continue to talk about the carnage in Syria, there has

been very little action to end the suffering of the people of Aleppo and across Syria.

Mr. Speaker, it pains me every single time I come to the well of the House to talk about the atrocities in Syria. But we are failing the innocent people of Syria through our inaction.

Rather than enforcing red lines for Assad's use of chemical weapons or enhancing sanctions against the Russians for their war crimes in the bombing of medical facilities and aid convoys, the President and Secretary of State focus their attention on sham ceasefires that are continually violated by the people with which we negotiate.

They constantly worry about the Iranians walking away from flawed nuclear deals instead of leading the global community to end the atrocities in Syria.

I have said it before, and I will say it again: Russia and Iran are not our allies. Their interests lie in destabilizing Europe and turning the Middle East into a wasteland of murder and chaos.

Mr. Speaker, there needs to be a true cost for the complicity in war crimes and crimes against humanity. It's time that Russia, Iran, and Syria are held accountable.

That is why this bill is so important. It would increase sanctions on the Assad regime and its supporters for the continued atrocities committed against the Syrian people. It requires this administration and any future administration to stand up and impose costs on the Russians, Syrians, and Iranians for the barrel bombing and gassing of innocent civilians.

I want to thank my colleagues, Congressman ENGEL and Congressman ROYCE for introducing this critical bill.

We owe it to the innocent people of Syria to bring justice against the Assad regime, Russian military, and their allies and help the struggling people of Syria.

If we fail to act, fail to lead—this Syrian Civil War will be the greatest humanitarian crisis of the 21st century.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2016*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, the evening of November 14th, I am not recorded on two votes, because I was absent due to a mechanical failure on my flight.

If I had been present, I would have voted: on roll call 575; yes, and on roll call 576; yes.

### RECOGNIZING THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2016*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I recognize

the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) as the organization celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Since its inception in 1966 as the Lake-Porter County Regional Transportation and Planning Commission, which became NIRPC in 1973, the agency continues to play a vital role in the planning and coordination of Northwest Indiana's highway, local road, public transit, and trails systems. In addition, NIRPC continues to perform essential regional environmental planning and land use analysis. Serving the people of Lake, LaPorte and Porter Counties, NIRPC's coordinating role among the various public interests has been crucial to the success of the region.

During the course of the past 50 years, NIRPC has been instrumental in shaping our region's view toward transportation infrastructure as well as land-use planning. Often, we narrowly view transportation infrastructure as simply the roads upon which we drive. The organization's executive directors, Board of Commissioners, and transportation planners have challenged this understanding by developing programs focused upon regional transit, through its support for increasing commuter transportation opportunities along existing bus systems and the South Shore Rail Line, upon our waterways, by shaping transportation policies along our rivers, and upon our multimodal trail system, the availability of which increased from 13 miles in 1990 to nearly 150 miles currently under NIRPC's direction. NIRPC's work to expand the concepts of interconnectivity within the communities in its three-county system benefits the economic development of our region as does its work in support of the Marquette Plan, a land-use reinvestment strategy focused upon the Lake Michigan shoreline. Working in coordination with the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority and the lakefront communities, NIRPC's technical expertise has led to the implementation of transformational, intergenerational projects along the lakeshore. Indiana's First Congressional District has resources other areas in our country envy—our transportation infrastructure, our waterways and shoreline, and our proximity to Chicago—all of which have been enhanced by the exceptional leadership exhibited by the dedicated individuals and municipal officials which make up NIRPC.

I would be remiss if I did not mention just a few of the people who have made NIRPC's first 50 years such a great success and guarantee at least another half century of accomplishment. The commission's first Chairman, Dr. Joseph J. Forszt; Vice-Chairman, Virgil O. King; Secretary William L. Staehle; Executive Director, Norman E. Tufford; and Deputy Director Jim Ranfranz were essential in establishing and guiding the organization. NIRPC is currently under the able direction of Chairman, Chesterton Town Councilman James Ton; Vice-Chairman, Highland Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin; Secretary, Beverly Shores Town Councilman Geof Benson; Executive Director, Ty Warner; and Deputy Director, Steve

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